

What is claimed is:

1. An image processing apparatus equipped with an inter image calculating means for performing inter image calculations to derive differences between two images of a single subject
5 to obtain a difference image that represents the differences between the two images, wherein:

process confirmation data representing whether an image has undergone image processes is attached to each of the two images, and image processing condition data representing image
10 processing conditions are further attached to the images which have undergone image processes; the image processing apparatus further comprising:

15 a judgment means for judging whether the two images have undergone image processes, based on the process confirmation data attached to each of the two images; and

20 a correction means for correcting an image which has been judged to have undergone image processes, to correct the image to a state equivalent to its original state prior to the image processes, based on the image processing condition data attached thereto; wherein:

the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation employing the corrected image, for the image which has been judged to have undergone image processes.

2. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 1,
25 wherein:

the image processes include a gradation process.

3. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 1,
wherein:

the image processes include a frequency process.

4. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 1,
5 further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions
of the two images so that structural components of the single
subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter
10 image calculation between the two images which have been
positionally aligned.

5. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 2,
further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions
15 of the two images so that structural components of the single
subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter
image calculation between the two images which have been
positionally aligned.

20 6. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 3,
further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions
of the two images so that structural components of the single
subject substantially match; wherein

25 the inter image calculation means performs the inter
image calculation between the two images which have been

positionally aligned.

7. An image processing apparatus equipped with an inter image calculating means for performing inter image calculations to derive differences between two images of a single subject 5 to obtain a difference image that represents the differences between the two images, wherein:

process confirmation data representing whether an image has undergone image processes is attached to each of the two images; the image processing apparatus further comprising:

10 a judgment means for judging whether the two images have undergone image processes, based on the process confirmation data attached to each of the two images; and

15 a correction means for correcting an image which has been judged to have undergone image processes, to cause the image to approximate its original state prior to the image processes, based on typical image processing conditions of image processes which have been administered to the image; wherein:

the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation employing the corrected image, for the image 20 which has been judged to have undergone image processes.

8. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein:

the image processes include a gradation process.

9. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 7, 25 wherein:

the image processes include a frequency process.

10. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim
7, further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions
of the two images so that structural components of the single
5 subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter
image calculation between the two images which have been
positionally aligned.

11. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim
10 8, further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions
of the two images so that structural components of the single
subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter
15 image calculation between the two images which have been
positionally aligned.

12. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim
9, further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions
20 of the two images so that structural components of the single
subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter
image calculation between the two images which have been
positionally aligned.

25 13. An image processing apparatus equipped with an inter
image calculating means for performing inter image calculations

to derive differences between two images of a single subject to obtain a difference image that represents the differences between the two images, wherein:

process confirmation data representing whether an image

5 has undergone image processes is attached to each of the two images, and image processing condition data representing image processing conditions are further attached to the images which have undergone image processes; the image processing apparatus further comprising:

10 a judgment means for judging whether the two images have undergone image processes, based on the process confirmation data attached to each of the two images; and

a correction means for correcting the difference image to be obtained by the inter image calculation in the case that 15 at least one of the two images have undergone image processes, to obtain a difference image which would be obtained if the inter image calculation was performed employing the two images prior to the image processes, based on the image processing condition data attached thereto.

20 14. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 13, wherein:

the image processes include a gradation process.

15. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 13, further comprising:

25 a positional alignment means for aligning the positions of the two images so that structural components of the single

subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation between the two images which have been positionally aligned.

5 16. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 14, further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions of the two images so that structural components of the single subject substantially match; wherein

10 the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation between the two images which have been positionally aligned.

17. An image processing apparatus equipped with an inter image calculating means for performing inter image calculations 15 to derive differences between two images of a single subject to obtain a difference image that represents the differences between the two images, wherein:

process confirmation data representing whether an image has undergone image processes is attached to each of the two 20 images, and image processing condition data representing image processing conditions are further attached to the images which have undergone image processes; the image processing apparatus further comprising:

a judgment means for judging whether the two images have 25 undergone image processes, based on the process confirmation data attached to each of the two images; and

a correction means for correcting the difference image to be obtained by the inter image calculation in the case that at least one of the two images are judged to have undergone image processes, to obtain a difference image approximating that 5 which would be obtained if the inter image calculation was performed employing the two images prior to the image processes, based on typical image processing conditions of the image processes administered to the at least one of the two images.

18. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 10 17, wherein:

the image processes include a gradation process.

19. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 17, further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions 15 of the two images so that structural components of the single subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation between the two images which have been positionally aligned.

20 20. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 18, further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions of the two images so that structural components of the single subject substantially match; wherein

25 the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation between the two images which have been

positionally aligned.